When and Where are classes held?

All classes are held at the Chicago Botanic Garden with limited site visits to outside venues. Core classes are programmed on weekday evenings and weekends to accommodate working professionals and adults with busy lifestyles.

How large are the classes?

Lecture classes can hold up to 50 students.
Lab formats are limited to 20—24 students.
Design courses are limited to 16 students.

How much will this cost?

Classes average $13 per instructional hour.

How long will this take me?

We offer students a flexible approach to their education allowing them to finish a program at their own pace. Some programs can be completed in as little as 2 years and others have up to 7 years for completion, the Garden Design Certificate averages 3 years. Students may enroll in a single course to address a specific need or interest; build a sequence of courses to meet individual needs; or earn a certificate of completion for a specific program of study.

Where do I start?

Botany 1 is a prerequisite for most courses, but select classes may be taken prior to fulfilling this requirement.

All certificate students are asked to provide an email address for program and course updates, confirmation letters, supply lists and general student correspondence.

The mission of the Chicago Botanic Garden is to promote the enjoyment, understanding and conservation of plants in the natural world. Through the Joseph Regenstein, Jr. School, the professional expertise, and talents of the Garden's horticulturists and educators are shared with students of all levels.

For more information regarding certificate programs or upcoming classes please contact Carissa Ilg at: 847-835-8293
email certificateprogram@chicagobotanic.org
or www.chicagobotanic.org/certificate

To register for classes or for more information about the Joseph Regenstein Jr., School please call the registrar at 847 -835-8261 or online at
www.chicagobotanic.org/school

Certificates are awarded once a year at our fall graduation ceremony and reception. Students must register with the office of continuing education for graduation & certificate completion.

Certificate of Merit Programs

Come Grow with us!

Garden Design

www.chicagobotanic.org/certificate

CHICAGO BOTANIC GARDEN

JOSEPH REGENSTEIN, JR. SCHOOL

Certificate of merit programs provide students specialized, high-quality educational programs without the need to be enrolled in a college or university.

Many students enrolled in certificate of merits consider themselves "lifelong learners," hoping simply to become better gardeners, while others are professionals working to improve their expertise and marketability.

What is a certificate?

A Certificate signifies that a student has successfully fulfilled all the requirements of a prescribed series of courses. Certificates are awarded each year, and have been used by many individuals to prepare for entry-level positions in plant-related occupations or to obtain salary raises or increased responsibilities in their current positions.

What programs do you offer?

- Garden Design
- Professional Gardener Level 1 & 2
- Ornamental Plant Materials
- Healthcare Garden Design
- Midwest Gardening
- Botanical Art
- Horticultural Therapy
- Photography

Certificate of Merit Programs

Garden Design

Certificate of Merit Program (GDC)

This unique curriculum provides the knowledge and skills you need to succeed as a garden design professional.
It features a solid foundation in plantsmanship and science-based gardening techniques, both of which are essential to creating successful gardens.

The program will develop and refine your planting design abilities, focusing on the unique role of plants in shaping space, creating a sense of place, and fostering well-being throughout the year and in a spectrum of settings, from private residences to municipal plantings, and streetscapes. This program will enable you to take on complex projects and offer complete garden design services.

There are no prerequisites for this Certificate Program and no prior horticulture experience is needed.

Who Should Participate

- Aspiring professional garden designers
- Gardeners &garden designers seeking professional development

Program Requirements

After completing Botany 1, remaining core courses may be taken at any time providing there are no other pre-requisites listed.

To complete the GDC program all required courses and 24 hours of elective credit must be completed successfully.

For the certificate, a grade of at least 70 percent must be achieved for each core course. All requirements for the certificate must be completed within seven years of the start date of your first core course.

You can prove proficiency for up to 20 percent of the coursework by passing proficiency exams for approved courses or providing transcripts indicating grades of at least 70 percent for similar courses. There is no separate enrollment for the program.

Students pursuing the Garden Design certificate are encouraged to complete their Ornamental Plant Materials certificate as well. This only requires the addition of 24 hours of elective credit.

GDC Required Courses

Botany 1

Botany 2……. Botany 1

All OPC core courses** …… Botany 1

Hardy bulbs	Deciduous Flowering Shrubs
Small Flowering Trees	Annuals and Biennials
Ground Covers and Vines	Herbaceous Perennials
Deciduous Trees	Conifers and Broad-leaved Evergreens

Choice of two Gardening Techniques courses **

Session A*	Session C….. Botany 1
Session B*	Session D*

Plant Health 1……. Botany 1

Plant Health 2 ..……. *Plant Health 1*

Soil Basics…….. Botany 1

Graphics

Introduction to Professional Practice……. *Graphics***

Principles of Garden Design…….. *Graphics, Intro. to Professional Practice*

Hardscape Basics……... *Principles of Garden Design*

Introduction to Grading and Drainage……... *Principles of Garden Design*

Planting Design…….. *4 OPC core courses, Hardscape Basics***

Garden Design Implementation……. *Planting Design*

Garden Design Studio……. *Garden Design Implementation*

24 hours of elective credit. Courses must be designated as GDC elective. One elective credit is equal to one instructional hour. Electives credit is based upon attendance, no formal grades are processed.

**Course and pre-requisite listed can be taken concurrently

**Does not require pre-requisite of Botany 1*